



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS HUMAN SMUGGLER SUSPECTED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT *'Coyote' separated woman from group, then beat and attacked her*

EL PASO, Texas—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested a 30-year-old Mexico citizen Thursday for allegedly beating and sexually assaulting a woman he is suspected of smuggled into the country the day before.

A man initially identified by documents he had in his possession as Pedro Casas-Chavez was arrested at about 4 a.m. at the Roof Inn motel at 11400 Chito Samaniego Drive after the night clerk called police about a disturbance.

It is believed at this time that the name given by the suspect is an alias. It is common for human smugglers, or "coyotes," to use aliases.

The clerk reported to El Paso police that the woman sought help after escaping from a room at the motel where she was severely beaten and raped. Police coordinated with ICE special agents because of the allegation of human smuggling. The woman is currently under the protection of ICE.

The woman, who is from El Salvador, was one of a group of six illegal aliens Casas-Chavez allegedly smuggled her into the country Wednesday from Juarez, Mexico. ICE special agents found five other illegal aliens at the motel. The woman said Casas-Chavez separated her from the group and kept her in his room at the Red Roof Inn. He allegedly consumed alcohol that evening until he was drunk, and then beat and sexually assaulted the woman.

Casas-Chavez is charged with alien smuggling, and is currently at the El Paso County Jail. The U.S. Attorney's Office has accepted the case for prosecution.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.